

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, and 13-14 have been amended. Claims 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 14, and 16 have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 12-13, and 15 are pending.

Claims 2 and 14 stand object to due to minor informalities. Claims 2 and 14 have been amended to address the issue raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to claims 2 and 14 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepherd (U.S. Patent No. 6,494,364) in view of May (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,771). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "when said first sensor detects the card, said card carriage controller causes said carrier rollers to rotate in a forward direction until said second sensor detects the card; after said second sensor detects the card, the card carriage controller causes said carrier rollers to repeatedly briefly rotate in a forward direction and briefly stop, until said first sensor does not detect the card; after said first sensor does not detect the card, the card carriage controller causes said carrier rollers to rotate forward to carry the card up to a storage portion of said card processor."

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, "after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body while varying the rotational speed of the carrier rollers and stopping said carrier rollers."

Claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, "while discharging the card, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a discharge direction until the card passes through a pair of carrier rollers closest to an insertion portion, then the carriage

controller repeatedly briefly rotates the carrier rollers in the discharge direction and stops, until the card has been discharged from a main body of the card processor by a predetermined length of the card.”

Shepherd discloses a self service terminal having a plurality of pairs of carriage rollers, a controller, and a plurality of sensors, including sensors 86, 88, and 90. See Figs. 2 and 4. As noted in the Office Action, Shepherd fails to teach or suggest repeatedly stopping movement of the card, or varying the speed of the card. Shepherd therefore fails to teach or suggest the above quoted portions of claims 1, 3, and 13.

May discloses a motorized card reader module including a transport mechanism for halting, at least twice, the movement of a card during card entry and card exit. See column 1, line 45 – column 2, line 16. The Office Action alleges that the claimed invention would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art given the disclosures of Shepherd and May. However, as evidenced by, for example, Fig. 2, there is no disclosure or suggestion in May regarding the requirements recited in the independent claims.

More specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, neither Shepherd nor May, whether singly or in combination, teach or suggest the recited sensor architecture and the operation of intermittently halting travel of the card using the recited sensor architecture. With respect to independent claim 3, neither Shepherd nor May, whether singly or in combination, disclose or suggest varying the speed of the transport mechanism. Finally, with respect to claim 13, neither Shepherd nor May, whether singly or in combination, disclose or suggest the above recited features regarding discharging a card.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, and 13 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Depending claims 2, 6, 9, 12, and 14-15 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reason as their respective independent claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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